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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Agency Comments on Secretary Udall's Report on Electric Power Developments in the USSR.

1. Below are comments contributed by Agency officers on Secretary Udall's report.

2. [redacted] of Soviet Russia Division states:

"The report of the Udall delegation on Electric Power Developments in the USSR provides an excellent summary appraisal of Soviet electric power growth and planning and the challenge this presents to the West. It illustrates the value of a carefully planned and run exchange program with the USSR.

"This report is all the more valuable because as an authoritative statement of top ranking U. S. officials in the electric power field it will be more readily accepted and understood by the U. S. audience, particularly those in the technological and industrial fields, than are comparable Soviet publications which have met with considerable skepticism and indifference because of Soviet propaganda techniques. It should therefore stimulate a greater understanding of the challenge presented by the Soviets in this area of economic competition and also of the social system on which that challenge is based. If anything, the differing social systems, particularly in regard to the application and consumption of electric power output, should be more strongly stressed in this report. In this regard comparative statistical analyses, especially per capita indices, can be very misleading and not truly reflect the Soviet system of resource allocation and heavy capital investment at the expense of the consumer. Suffice it to say, as did a recent State Department Moscow Airgram, that the electric power output transmission facilities in Moscow are so overstrained that the streets are only semi-illuminated because of lack of sufficient electricity.

"As was anticipated, the report itself contains little of direct operational intelligence significance. We did benefit greatly, however, from the

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discussion with Secretary Udall and members of his delegation at the debriefing. It was most interesting to learn how such a ranking group would be received and attended in the USSR, the type of controls that would be exercised, and the extent to which the RIS would be in direct evidence. The fact that a ranking RIS official was a member of the reception committee, apparently unknown to the delegation, suggests that defensive briefing of such delegations is a practice which should be continued."

3. Dr. Otto Guthe, Assistant Director, Research and Reports, states:

"The report presents accurate, up-to-date information on hydro-electric power stations and extra-high voltage power transmission in the USSR, along with supplementary information on the energy situation in the USSR. The major intelligence gain contained in the report is the information on the projected size of the Bratsk Aluminum Plant, known previously only as "the largest in the USSR." The report provides handy comparisons of Soviet dams, reservoirs, and hydroelectric powerplants with similar installations in the U.S. (pp 49-51). By pointing out that the two countries are at different places on a "normal growth curve," it presents, in graphic form, its own approach towards answering the perennial question of whether or not the USSR is catching up with the U.S. in power generating capacity (pp 56-64).

"Many of the data contained in the report have been published in the Soviet Press and were available to this Office prior to the delegation's tour. The Office of Research and Reports furnished extensive briefing materials to the Department of the Interior before and after the tour, and an earlier draft of the report was reviewed by a member of that Office. Many of the materials supplied were incorporated in the report."

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Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Executive Director